

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Earmarks of Farm and Home Development

The purpose of this statement is to help extension workers gain a more uniform concept of Farm and Home Development and what is involved in this method of doing extension work. It might be used as a yardstick for determining whether or not extension endeavors labeled Farm and Home Development measure up to the standards set forth.

Perhaps the difficulty in arriving at a common understanding of Farm and Home Development stems, in part, from these characteristics:

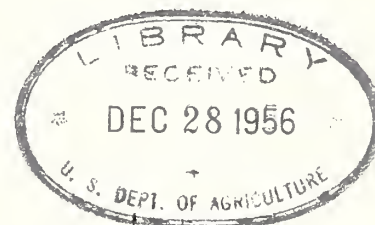
1. The term itself is relative, not absolute.
2. It is a matter of intent as well as things.
3. It involves the abstract as well as the concrete.
4. Both ideals and action are essential.
5. It is a combination of multiple elements, not a single-phase affair.
6. It is a continuing process.

In a general sense, any improvement in the farm or in the home might be called farm and home development. But as an extension method, and in its specific sense, Farm and Home Development has these unique characteristics:

I. Farm and Home Development is a family experience that:

A. Involves:

1. Family participation.
2. Extension assistance.
3. The farm and the home as a complete unit.
4. Awareness of needs and problems.
5. Desire for improvement.
6. Willingness to take action.
7. Acceptance of responsibility.



B. Requires:

1. The family to formulate immediate and longtime goals that are a part of the written plan and that give recognition to priorities.
2. Careful study of all resources,* and present farm and home operating procedures to detect strengths and weaknesses.
3. Study, testing, and selection of alternative solutions to problems.

*The term resources, as used here, includes not only material things such as land, equipment, and capital; labor or skills; but such intangibles as present or potential knowledge, counsel, credit, technical assistance. It includes all sources of useful and available aid.

C. Produces:

1. A plan of action that brings
 - (a) desirable changes related to the family's goals.
 - (b) improvement in the organization of the farm-home business.
2. Adoption of improved practices that:
 - (a) complement each other.
 - (b) are related to the total farm and home enterprise.
3. Improvement in soil productivity.
4. Skill in dealing with problems as they relate to the whole.
5. Increased family ability to recognize and solve problems.

D. Results in:

1. Attainment of family needs and wants, such as
 - (a) improved family living.
 - (b) higher net income.
 - (c) more leisure.
 - (d) economic security.
2. Changes in attitudes, appreciations, and values.
3. Greater acceptance of citizenship responsibilities.
4. Fuller appreciation of the demands of modern farm science.

II. Farm and Home Development is:

- A. Not merely intensification of extension assistance, although intensification is a usual consequence.
 - B. Not simply decision making, although decision making is an important part of the process.
 - C. Not merely farm planning, though planning of the farm and home enterprise is essential.
 - D. Not simply a method of dealing with problems or practices singly, but in their relation to the total.
 - E. Not just a matter of gaining the family's confidence, though this is the starting point the same as with any extension endeavor.
 - F. Not community development, except as development of the farm and the home contributes to the community.
 - G. Not just an on-the-farm advisory service, though some individual service is usually required.
-

III. Viewed as a Process, Farm and Home Development is Characterized by:

- A. Family action, supported by extension help.
- B. Consideration of the farm and the home as a unit.
- C. Consideration of individual problems in relation to the whole.
- D. The family consciously going through the process of weighing:
 - 1. Needs and desires.
 - 2. Problems and obstacles.
 - 3. Alternative solutions.
 - 4. Resources.
- E. The family determining priorities among needs and desires, and procedures for implementing the improved farming and homemaking system which forms the written plan.
- F. The family applying its plan as rapidly as feasible using improved practices in combination with each other where changes are needed.
- G. The family taking count of results to determine whether:
 - 1. Production is more efficient and profitable.
 - 2. Family living is improved.
 - 3. Other family goals are being attained.
- H. The family making adjustments in its system of farming and home-making as needed.

IV. The breadth of vision required in teaching Farm and Home Development as compared with other extension methods may be illustrated by the attitude of the third man in the following story.

In answer to the question "What are you doing?," one bricklayer replied, "I'm laying bricks." Another stated that he was building a wall. The third said, "I'm helping Sir Christopher Wren build a great Cathedral."

THE BRICKS OF ADOPTED PRACTICES, WITHOUT A PLAN, WILL NOT BUILD A CATHEDRAL

Members of Federal Extension Service Unit Approach Task Force: Chairman, Otto C. Croy, E. W. Aiton, E. P. Callahan, J. B. Claar, Loretta Cowden, James E. Crosby, Jr., Beatrice Frangquist, Virgil Gilman, Mena Hogan, Eunice Heywood, Starley Hunter, Joseph Matthews, E. J. Niederfrank, J. R. Paulling, Bryan Phifer, Charles Sheffield, P. H. Stone, Helen Turner, and Lawrence Vaughan.

